

Procedures for Early Sampling for Tagging Annual and Perennial ryegrasses

The Oregon Seed Industry and associated certification advisory committees and boards have asked for some method whereby information can be gathered on annual and perennial ryegrass production prior to harvest and Oregon Certification tags released prior to the completion on the final sample for germination and fluorescence. On February 5, 1991, the OSU Certification and Foundation Seed and Plant Materials Board approved this concept.

1. Each seed company may submit fields of ryegrass that they would like to request an early sampling option on for that particular year of certification activity. To avoid late fee, the request for an early sampling option must be received at the OSU Seed Certification office by April 1 each year. The seed company or contractor must list all fields by variety, seed grower, field number and acreage. A preliminary requirement for each of these production fields must be that all laboratory reports from the certification activities during the previous harvest season pass Oregon Certification Standards. After receipt of request and verification that fields have been signed up for crop inspection by each grower, the Oregon Seed Certification Service will bill each seed company a fee of \$1.00 per acre or a minimum of \$50.00 per field, whichever is greater. Seed test charges and all certification field and final certification fees are in addition to above fees. For varieties or fields that do not have a previous seed laboratory history to evaluate, additional field inspections or other determinations may be necessary to determine early sampling eligibility. After adequate Oregon Certification inspection to determine the percent of contamination, fields that have more than 1% other ryegrass contaminant, will be rejected for Early Sampling eligibility even though they may pass certification field inspections. These fields could be re-inspected for Early Sampling, if requested.
2. The seed company will be responsible for having their field personnel sample each field in the windrow. For new companies that have not utilized this program, a meeting with company and field personnel could take place prior to the season to go over details and sampling criteria. In general terms the person collecting the sample should walk diagonally across the field, taking random samples along the way. The samples are combined together, threshed, cleaned and submitted to the seed lab. Be sure to check with the seed lab to determine the amount of seed the lab needs. The samples for the early sampling program must be submitted to the Oregon State University Seed Laboratory with the following information in place: Information must be provided on the seed grower, the variety and crop, the field number, the seed company or contractor, a request for germination and fluorescence. In addition, a copy of the test results of the germination and fluorescence should be sent to the Seed Certification office (a special sampling certificate will be provided by Oregon Seed Certification for each company.) Please note that the collected samples must be threshed and cleaned prior to testing. Oregon State Seed Laboratory will charge a cleaning fee for samples that are not cleaned.
3. At the time of harvest and conditioning of the seed, standard procedures must be followed for identifying seed lots and a request for a formal certification sample to be taken by certification samplers (a complete test is required at this time-including purity, germination and fluorescence test). As soon as the final preliminary purity results are complete and meet Oregon Certification standards, the OSU Seed Certification office will review early sampling germination and fluorescence information. If early fluorescence indicates < 1 % other ryegrass (after Varietal fluorescence is accounted for) and meets the minimum germination levels, certification tags can be issued for the seed lot through the early sampling and tagging program. There is no advance tagging option based on seven-day counts for the early sampling program. Seed companies and/or grower should request review of preliminary purity and tagging as they do on other eligible lots.

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In addition, the Seed Certification office will continue to offer the service of advance tagging on annual and perennial ryegrass lots being tested through the OSU Seed Laboratory. This program is based on the seven day preliminary count and will continue to require that minimum germination is met and fluorescence indicates < 1 % other ryegrass (after Varietal fluorescence is accounted for). The Seed Certification office has the option to look at variety history in terms of fluorescence variation.

For early sampling and tagging as well as the advance tagging programs, section VIII in the Oregon Certified Seed Handbook indicates:

Advance tagging of seed lots is permitted when preliminary seed test results meet Oregon Certification Standards. Advance tagging for Annual and Perennial ryegrass seed lots is done at the full risk of the individual and/or seed contractor. Refer to current procedures.

Early sampling and tagging of Annual and Perennial ryegrass seed lots is permitted under certain conditions. Early sampling and tagging of Annual and Perennial ryegrass seed lots is done at the full risk of the individual and/or seed contractor. Refer to current procedures.

In each of these programs, it is fully understood that the individual and/or seed company making the request for the advance tagging and early sampling and tagging programs accept full risk and responsibility for those seed lots that may not qualify for final certification on a final laboratory test report issued from the OSU Seed Laboratory.